

## ABSTRACT

An optical scanning apparatus reduces shading and variations in light intensity and significantly increases light usage during an optical scanning process using a simple construction in which a laser beam from a light source is deflected by a light deflector having a reflective surface and is focused to a spot upon a scanning surface by a scanning lens to thereby perform optical scanning. The light source is arranged to produce a laser beam which includes both P-polarized light and S-polarized light. A direction of polarization of the light source is inclined in a plane perpendicular to the optical axis with respect to both the deflecting direction (the Y-axis direction) and a direction perpendicular to the deflecting direction (Z-axis direction). The laser beam impinges upon the reflective surface as polarized light which is between P-polarized light and S-polarized light, such that shading is minimized and variations in light intensity are significantly reduced and light usage is greatly increased during the optical scanning process.

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